

THE CONFEDERATE.

D. K. McRAE,
A. M. GORMAN, } Editors.

All letters on business of the Office, to be
directed to A. M. GORMAN, & Co.

TUESDAY, February 2, 1864.

Office of THE CONFEDERATE,
on Fayetteville street, second door
South of Pomeroy's Bookstore.

A Card.

The undersigned, under the employment of
the Proprietors of this journal, and at the soli-
citations of a large number of friends, assumes
this day the chief editorial management of its
political department.

On no occasion of his life, fraught with not
a few responsibilities, has he ever entered upon
a public duty with more diffidence of his
qualification, or a greater distrust of his abili-
ties.

He recognizes the press as a powerful agent
of law, order and morals in every organized
society—and he well perceives how easily it
may be made the instrument of evil.

He is keenly sensible, that to fit an editor
for his post, a proper apprenticeship, instruc-
tion and experience are absolutely essential;
and he is not unmindful of his lack of these
opportunities.

But an organ faithfully reflecting the loyal
sentiment of the State was deemed to be re-
quisite here, in the capital town of North
Carolina. Other applications have been made
to secure a competent service—and they have
failed.

The times are heavy with important events;
the popular mind is anxious and concerned;
the interests of North Carolina, identical with
the interests of the Confederacy, are suspended
in the balance—and all the aid of all her chil-
dren is summoned in her behalf.

The undersigned is conscious of a sincere
purpose to do good—and to be useful in
furthering the great cause of national inde-
pendence.

He will endeavor to make this paper the
disseminator of right principles. He will
yield to both governments, the Confederate and
the State, a faithful assistance, in all their
efforts to reach the goal of our society.

Appreciating fully the honor, dignity and
usefulness of the Editorial profession, he will
strive with all his abilities to advance and
elevate its character.

He does not expect this paper to be free
from controversy—but he has the intention so
to conduct discussion, that while exposing
error and condemning fault, he shall always
observe a proper regard for individual rights
and a proper decorum of manner and language;
to avoid personal abuse and to keep clear from
all intermeddling with private concerns; and
the same measure of courtesy that he extends
to an adversary he expects to have meted to
him in return.

The public mind is weary of individual
strife, and a better taste appeals for a higher
order of mental nourishment. Frankly ac-
knowledging all his deficiencies, and truthfully
assuring the fraternity of his motives and
intentions, he asks their right hand of fellow-
ship, and claims a generous forbearance of his
short comings, and a sympathy in his efforts,
so far as they may be proper and well-directed.

Thus animated, he enters upon this new and
untried path, appealing to a just public senti-
ment for a guide to his footsteps, that he may
be the better able to serve the nation and to
deserve the commendation of the people.

D. K. McRAE.

We continue to receive notices from persons
in every direction, that money has been sent
within the last few weeks for the State Journal
and the paper has not been received. On ex-
amination we do not find these names on the
books, and on inquiry of the Editor of the
Journal, we are informed that he has not re-
ceived the money from any person whose names
and credits we do not find on the books. Of
course we know nothing about such matters
previous to the issuing of *The Confederate*—
All money sent by the mails is at the risk of
the sender. This is the rule with all Pub-
lishers now. There has been an exceedingly
large amount of money lost through the Post
Office since Christmas—all the editors are com-
plaining of losses since that time. We would
advise all who can do so, to send money
through the Express Company. Money sent
by Express is at our risk and expense. If sent
by mail, it will be at the risk of the sender.

D. K. McRAE.

All our friends are well pleased with *The
Confederate*. They say, its sentiments, its
reading matter—editorials and selections—the
print, all are excellent; but the paper on which
it is printed, is not as good as they would
like. Neither is it such as we would like to
have—but it is all we can get, and therewith
have to be content. We hope our next sup-
ply will be better—but we know our Paper-
makers are doing the best they can with the
material they have to manufacture with.

Some errors occurred, yesterday, in the Ad-
vertisement of the Enrolling officer of the 5th
Congressional District. See corrections in
to-day's issue.

We have received no Richmond papers of a
later date than Friday last.

We are requested to give notice that the
Ball at Kittrell's will certainly come off on the
11th inst. There appears to have been some
misunderstanding in regard to the time.—
Frank Johnson's Band, from Wilmington, will
be present.

What Does It Mean?

In the Standard of the 29th ult., in reply
to the communication of "A Citizen," it com-
plains of being charged with favoring the "se-
cession of this State from the common govern-
ment," and asks that it may be judged on this
question by what it says editorially. It is not
to be wondered at that the Standard shrinks,
when called to look this issue boldly in the
face—and that he disavows even with the force
of the interrogatory—"Is thy servant a dog,"
that he should do this thing?—the possibility
of such a criminal intention. It were charity
to consider the Standard to be ignorant of its
own mind in this matter, for surely this is the
only excuse that can be made in its behalf for
this uncalculated disavowal. But we shall give
the Standard the benefit of its request, and
we shall now proceed to prove, from what it
has said editorially, either that its call for a
Convention means this, or that it means noth-
ing. We shall show from its editorial, that
it has approved this purpose as announced by
others.

That others have so understood its intention
and the intention of its coadjutors, and have
so announced it:

That not only secession from the Confed-
eracy, but actual re-construction, is understood
by our enemies to be its meaning and intention:

That it is so understood in foreign nations,
and finally that it has lately, on more than
one occasion, announced and avowed this as
the purpose of the State, in terms significant
of its own approval.

To the first point—that it has approved
the sentiments of others who have announced
this purpose:

On the 9th of September last, Dr. J. T.
Leach announced himself as a candidate for
Congress, in a circular addressed to the peo-
ple of the 3d District, through the columns of
the Standard. In that circular Dr. L. uses
this language, ironically: "What was loyalty
in one man three years ago, in advocating the
dissolution of the old Union, is treason now—
and if there be any re-constructionists, they
have the precedents of the secessionists by
which to prove their loyalty." Here is not
quite a determination to secede, but a justifi-
cation of it, in the event it were attempted.

In the same Standard, EDITORIALLY, the
public attention is called to the circular, and
Dr. Leach is recommended as "an honest, in-
telligent, high-minded gentleman, (who)
would make an excellent Representative." In
the same paper, Mr. James H. Everett, of
Wayne, is spoken of as a "young gentleman of
fine talents and sound views—who would also
make an excellent Representative." Mr. Ever-
ett would hardly deny that his views reach
to the separation of North Carolina from the
Confederacy, to peace on any terms, even to
re-union. Should he deny it, while it would
surprise, it would rejoice his best friends.

In its issue of January 12th, the Standard
publishes the proceedings of a public meeting
in the county of Johnston, and editorially it
commends them as "admirable in tone and
expression," and calls upon the "people gener-
ally" to follow the example of the "Johnston
friends," alleging that "our constitutional
rights are in danger, [not from the Yankees,
but from our own Government,] (the words in
brackets are ours,) and unless the people
should come to the rescue, they may be entirely
swept away! that now is the time for action."

Now, the preamble of that meeting, declared
the alarming tendency of the Confederate
Government towards military despotism, and
it was resolved that "whereas she is forced to
choose between military despotism and her
State sovereignty, North Carolina will choose
the latter by a State Convention." This is
the preamble and resolutions so "admirable
in tone and expression," and so adapted to the
Standard's taste. What is its meaning? Un-
fortunately for the Standard's present pur-
pose, but fortunately for the truth, the ex-
planation of its meaning is given by the au-
thor in a communication over his own in-
itials, in the Standard of the same date. In
that communication, the writer says—"There
is a point beyond which forbearance ceases to
be a virtue—and North Carolina, as regards
her obligation under the Confederate compact,
and her duty to her citizens, has reached that
point."

That "the mighty strides towards despotism
admit of no delay"—"that nations are held to-
gether by duty and interest; if one fails to
discharge its duty, the other is released from
the discharge of theirs."

That North Carolina "made a virtue of ne-
cessity, and coalesced against her interests,
with those who are now fastening the chains
of military despotism upon her."

That she "now claims the fulfillment of the
compact, or the right to depart in peace"—with
much more of the same sort.

In this communication and in the proceed-
ings of the meeting, every accusation is levelled
at our own government. It is denounced
as faithless, incompetent, tyrannical and des-
potic, and is rapidly striving towards a fiercer
exercise of power. That the evil admits of no
delay—that honor and right release us from
further association with "those who have pro-
voked recant to the claims of justice and human-
ity." What could the basest and most false-
hearted Yankee on the floor of the Washing-
ton Congress say worse of us, than this? Yet
Dr. Leach breathes the free air of North Caro-
lina; is a member elect to our new Congress;
is heralded to the world as an honest, intelli-
gent man, and excellent representative; and
this is done, EDITORIALLY, by the Stand-
ard. His preamble and resolutions are approved
and commended for example to others. Two
other meetings—one in Granville, the other in
Greene—following the example commended by
the Standard, have been held. In both of these,
the government—our government—is held up
in the most odious light, as false, faithless, des-

potic—and after these, heaping denunciations,
more harsh than any to be found in a Yankee
press, wherein our soldiers are taught that
they are striving a base, contemptible and
detestable tyranny—the remedy is announced to
be "a choice of State sovereignty by a conven-
tion of the citizens." What is this but separa-
tion and secession—the more disputable, be-
cause just sufficiently cloaked to lack the bold-
ness of out-spoken treason.

All this the Standard heralds forth, without
disapprobation, as a part of the train of its
"Johnston friends." And so about the same
time, a meeting specially called is held in its
own county, at the instance of "its friends,"
Mr. Rogers and Mr. Laws. There, better
and wiser counsels prevailed. These denunciations
are withheld or modified—resolutions are
passed against reconstruction—against
secession and their ally a Convention—and
the Standard a week after never hears of it.—
No notice is taken of it. It is not considered
a legitimate Telemachus of the Johnston
Mentor. Not a proper fruit of that example
—and the columns of the Standard are closed
upon it. Deaf as a post, it hears not this
"voice in the wilderness," the herald of better
hopes. Dumb as an oyster, it cries not the glad
tidings.

Have we not made good our promise to prove,
out of the Standard's own Editorial conduct,
its approval of the purpose of a Convention
for secession, as announced by others?

Our second proposition we will attend to on
to-morrow.

THE EARLIEST OF THE SEASON.—We are
indebted to our friend, Dr. E. C. Fisher,
Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum near this
city, for a beautiful mess of the largest and
finest ASPARAGUS we have ever seen—grown
in the garden of that Institution. Some of the
stalks were near two inches in circumference—
perfectly tender and sweet. We doubt with-
er any equal to it can be produced in the
Southern Confederacy at so early a date. We
return our sincere thanks for this highly prized
present—which speaks so well for the pro-
ficiency of Mr. Tye, Dr. Fisher's Gardener.

The Yankee Congress—Bluster and Bravado about the War.

The proceedings of the Yankee Congress
possess their usual interest in their bluster
and bravado about the war. The principal sub-
ject under discussion in the Senate was the bill
quitting the Senators to take the oath. In the
debate on this subject Mr. Johnson, Senator
from Maryland, declared that he "would sac-
rifice as much and go as far as the farthest in
crushing the rebellion and restoring the au-
thority of the Constitution in the seceded States."

In some remarks by Mr. Doolittle, Senator
from Wisconsin, on the same subject, he said
that when the military power of this rebellion
was crushed—and he believed it would soon
be—these leaders will call upon the rocks and
mountains to hide them from the wrath of the
people they have seduced to their despotism.
He believed there was a large mass of the
Southern people who were forced into the re-
bellion by force of arms who yearned for a re-
turn to loyalty and Union, and he would wel-
come them with open arms and heart, and he
would have no mercy for those who by the
exercise of a despotic military power had crushed
them under a despotic yoke.

In the House, Mr. McDowell, of Indiana,
had offered a series of resolutions, declaring
that Congress fully recognizes the fundamental
provisions of the Constitution, which grant
freedom of speech and of the press and the
privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*, and
prevent the illegal arrest and imprisonment of
the citizens of loyal States, that neither the
President nor any other person can violate these
rights. The resolutions also reaffirm devotion
to the Constitution, &c. Mr. Washburne,
of Illinois, expressing a desire to delete the
resolutions, they lie over.

Mr. Edgeron, of Indiana, had offered a
series of resolutions reaffirming the Constitu-
tional resolutions as the basis on which the war
should be conducted; condemning the extra-
ordinary assumption of the Executive power,
and desiring the peace and restoration of the
Union, under benign influence and without
further waste of blood; deprecating all revolu-
tionary measures and policy as tends to di-
vide the Union men of the country and intensify
the animosities of the war. Debate
arising, the resolutions were postponed until
the 10th of March. Mr. Brooks, of New York, said the pro-
clamation of the President for the emancipa-
tion of slaves would not end the war. It
must be done by the sword, ordnance and
musket rifle. To say the proclamation would
do it was a delusion.

An exciting debate had occurred between
the representatives of Kentucky in relation to
the political status of that State. Mr. Smith,
of Kentucky, as a Southern man, identified
with the institution of slavery, said there
remained behind the rebellion that which gave
it strength and power, and which must be
destroyed and overthrown while the army
moves in front. The very life-blood of the
rebellion is drawn from African slavery, and
whenever we tap this foundation of the re-
bellion our affairs will be effectual. [Applause.]
While opposed to the operation of the procla-
mation upon the Union men of the South, as
far as the rebels in arms were concerned, he
would take their negroes and their infernal
lives, and crush them to atoms. [Applause.]

Mr. Mallory, of Kentucky, entered his sol-
emn protest against the sentiments uttered by
Mr. Smith. He said Kentucky scorns them,
and has given evidence of the fact that she
does.

A resolution had been offered in the House
instructing the Committee on Military Affairs
to report a bill for the immediate increase of
the pay of soldiers.

Mr. Randall, (Opposition,) of Pennsylvania,
moved to lay the resolution upon the table.
The House refused to table the resolution
almost unanimously, and it was referred to
the Committee on Military Affairs.

A bill reestablishing the grade of lieutenant-
general in the army has been reported from
the Military Committee of the House and will
probably pass. General Grant seems to be
the only general spoken of in connection with
that appointment, and if the bill becomes a
law it will undoubtedly be tendered to him.

A bill has been introduced "to create a
school fund out of confiscated property."

The Committee on Elections have made a
report against the claim of Mr. Field, of Louisi-
ana, and Mr. Segar, of Virginia, as repre-
sentatives from those States.

Jefferson Davis.

No people has ever attained real greatness
without the existence of the spirit of party.
Party is as indispensable to the existence of
good government as light is to vegetation.—
Of course this must be honest, not corrupt
party, or the malignity of faction. This is
perceived at a glance, and needs no enforce-
ment. The first institution of every govern-
ment proves this, and party for or against,
springs at its inception and infancy as the
grain does with moisture and heat. These
suggestions are induced by a survey of the
present position and past history of that great
man, whose name is the caption of this ar-
ticle. President Davis found himself at the
head of a new nation, without organization in
any department; the resources of his people,
although great, were undeveloped, and all had
to be drawn of every kind rough, unheaven,
and in a natural state, from the untouched quarry.
Nothing had he to aid him except a buoyant
love of freedom on the part of his people and
the obligations imposed by it. Resolutely,
with a large self reliance, a comprehensive
intellect, a persevering will, believing no
such miserable event as failure, he orga-
nized a Government, set its complicated
machinery to work, brought order out of
chaos, established War and Navy Depart-
ments, perfected a Treasury system, and has
with singular energy and success carried on
the mammoth war of modern times. Frail
in constitution, feeble in health, he has im-
posed voluntarily upon himself labor the most
exhausting and continuous. All he has un-
dertaken he has finished or has in laboring
process of completion. He is the President
of the Confederate States; he is the duties es-
sentially pertaining to that office, he with
fidelity unsundered, performs. He has his
heads of departments; there he finds fields
of labor and a most abundant harvest to gather.
He becomes in each the thinking power, the
excutor of its sternest duties, leaving de-
tails only to clerks. He is actually Secretary
of War, and always has been. He is Sec-
retary of the Navy and Treasury. He would
be Postmaster General, but the importance of
the Department to the liberties of the country
in the passing hour of the struggle do not de-
mand it. His sleepless vigilance allows no
leading subject in either of these great fields
to escape his notice, the scrutiny of his
deeper mind, and the adoption by his
fruitful study of plans for their direc-
tion. He is the soul, body and spirit of his
immortal administration. With all the
duties imposed directly by the Constitution
upon the President, those self imposed by his
undying devotion to the cause, yet belong-
ing to a certain sense exclusively to his Consti-
tutional advisers; the absence of an organized
government; the erection of one with no aid,
even the raw material to gather from an un-
opened mine. Who within the broad bounds
of these States, with all the statesmanship
this people is known to possess, could so suc-
cessfully have administered this Government
as he? We believe none. Certainly no man
has lifted himself up to receive the popular
approval. He is eminently the man for the
times, a will, an energy, an ability, an incor-
ruptibility, without which successful
resolution cannot be prosecuted for the rights
of freedom. The combination he possesses
we know no other man whose head and
heart embrace them all to the same extent.
By this we do not mean to say he has not
committed errors, for he has—in none more
than in the judgment of men. The tenacious
hold upon his confidence by Mansfield Lovell,
and we believe, the consequent fall of New
Orleans, the severest of all our reverses, is one
instance. The bold confidence he had in the
competency of Pemberton is another. His
apparent failure to appreciate the colossal
perils of Sterling Price is another. His over-
whelming confidence in the capacity of General
Bragg to wield large armies in the field, his
retention of that leader after the confidence of
his leading officers had been forfeited, is a
fourth. His refusal to allow Beauregard
to pursue the disolving host of Yankees
at the first battle of Manassas; his support
of Bragg of Reg in his Kentucky cam-
paign; his appointment and retention of
Hooles in the Trans-Mississippi Department;
his permission to Gen. McCulloch to remain
idle on the confines of Arkansas with a large
force, hoarded and rusting for the want of
service, no enemy being near, while Price,
single-handed and alone, was battling against the
best appointed force the Federals have ever put
in the field, and finally compelled, for want of
assistance and by overwhelming numbers, yet
with glory, to abandon Missouri, with all her
valuable agricultural and ammunition wealth,
to the savage care of Yankee thieves and mur-
derers; and his general want of confidence in
great military merit, most severely tested,
and triumphantly sustained, unless that merit
had been schooled in and passed the ordeal
of West Point. All these, with many others,
are some of his mistakes, yet with them all,
who in such a struggle would have made so
few? Who would not have had his prejudices,
his sometimes obstinacy, if not instability,
still worse; who has greater personal or po-
litical integrity, who has a larger love for Southern
rights, in short, who could so successfully have
conducted our affairs, foreign and domestic?
Who could have surpassed the Washingtonian
dignity, the calm, convincing reason, the mas-
terly style and the Christian spirit of each and
all of his messages and proclamations? They
have extracted applause from all at home, and
created the widest admiration abroad.

Washington had opposition and the spirit
of party, angry party, even during his first
administration; can we wonder at that same
spirit now? Yet with all the opposition ex-
isting then as now, confidence in respect for
the Great Chief, still animates the public heart.
Eato perpetua.

We have need to be justly proud of our
young Republic and the measure of fame she
has won, and none the least of it is from our
toiling, pure hearted President. Let us all
support him in his administration; fight
through the revolution, and achieve our
independence, and be assured nothing will more
surely weaken our best efforts than an wise
attacks upon the Executive, his Cabinet and
administration. Do this, for without full
support is given the Government its best field
achievements are and must be barren results.—
Do this, and our regenerated country cannot
be conquered. Lincoln in his crusade may
pour his accumulated mass of Dutch and Abol-
itionist upon our borders, plunge them with
headlong fury to our centre, still, sublime
amid the storm shall Southern valor rise, and
like the rock amid surrounding waters, repel
the rushing hordes.

SELM, Jan. 27.—Information has been re-
ceived that Lieut. G. A. Tabb, of Capt. Bayne's
signal corps, Army of Tennessee, who was
falsely reported to have deserted to the enemy
before the battle of Missionary Ridge, is a pris-
oner of war on Johnson's Island.

TELEGRAPHIC.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Entered according to act of Congress in the year
1863, by J. S. Tamm, in the Clerk's office
of the District Court of the Confederate States
for the Northern District of Georgia.

From Charleston.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 1.
One hundred and thirty-two shots fired at Sum-
ter yesterday, of which 114 struck. No casual-
ties at the fort.

The bombardment of the city continued to-day,
one hundred shells were fired up to 5 o'clock this
evening, which firing has been more rapid. One
person slightly wounded.

A fire broke out on Commercial wharf this af-
ternoon, destroying a row of Cotton Factors'
offices.

No further telegraphic news was received last
night, up to the hour necessary to put our paper
to press in order to send off our Western mail.

The Tennessee Frontier—The North Caro- lina Expedition.

We have some interesting particulars of the
recent expedition of the North Carolina forces
into Tennessee, which terminated so disas-
trously, and resulted, among other misfor-
tunes, in the capture of General Vance who
was in command.

General Vance crossed the Smoky mountain
at the head of Lenoir with about three hun-
dred and fifty-five cavalry, two pieces of
artillery and one hundred and fifty Indians.
The forces had great difficulty in crossing
the soldiers had to take the horses out of the
wagons to get down the mountain, over a per-
fect sheet of ice for three miles. After getting
to the foot, part of the command was left,
while General Vance, with about one hundred
and seventy-five men, started to Sevierville
on a reconnaissance. When in about two miles
he heard of a Yankee train of wagons being
there. Our small force immediately charged
and captured seventeen wagons, one hundred
mules and twenty six prisoners. The enemy
then retired four miles of our horse, and General
Vance at once started out with the captured
train. This was about 3 p. m. The General
thought it was impossible to get back
over the Smoky mountain and endeavored to
make his way to the Chatanooga road, on
the head of Cosby creek. He immediately
dispatched to Thomas, (who was the senior
officer in command), to send Colonel Henry,
with the balance of the command and artil-
lery, by the road around the base of the mountain,
to meet him on Cosby. The force with Gen-
eral Vance traveled that night until twelve
o'clock, when they found the road in their
front blocked. They then had to lay
by until daylight, when they cut out the
blockade, and reached Cosby about 1 p. m.;

but, instead of finding Henry there, they found
a dispatch from him saying that, upon con-
sultation with Colonel T. Thomas, he had
concluded the route was impracticable, and
would fall back across the Smoky mountain.
So there was General Vance, with the cap-
tured property, prisoners, &c., and only about
one hundred and seventy-five men. There
had not been on the creek one hour before
they were attacked by a Yankee cavalry force
about four hundred strong. Our command
was completely dispersed, the property cap-
tured, half the men taken prisoners, among
them General Vance and part of his staff.—
The fight occurred on Thursday, the 15th,
about 2 1/2 p. m.

Our men were perfectly panic-stricken and
made no fight at all. The General escaped
from the house where he was and got across
the creek and was endeavoring to get to the ad-
vanced guard, when he was captured. The
enemy did not stop at all, but dashed on to-
wards the front.

One of our officers in the affair writes as
follows:

"We succeeded in rallying the men on a
little point, which was a splendid position,
but the men were so frightened that they only
stood one fire and broke. It was the worst
stampede I ever saw or heard of. Nearly
every man lost his horse."—*Richmond Exam-
iner.*

LATE FROM NASSAU—THE HARBOR FULL OF BLOCKADE RUNNERS—THE YANKEE FLEET OPERATIVE AT WILMINGTON.

The British steamship *Cornica*, arrived at
New York Friday, from Havana 16th, via
Nassau, 18th. By this arrival we learn from
the Nassau Guardian, that the steamers
Alice, Will Dayel, H. roine, Pat, and Des-
patch—the latter commanded by the noted
Capt. Coxeter, arrived from Wilmington pre-
vious to the 16th, and that, with the exception
of the Despatch, they had sailed again for
Wilmington. The Nassau correspondent of
the New York World, writing on the 17th,
says:

There is, perhaps, no place throughout the
world where an American—one who is ready to
share the varied fortunes of the republic—is
subjected to more humiliating spectacles than
here. The crews of the past few days are
sufficient to call for the immediate interference
of the United States Government. Nassau,
month since, was as dull as midnight; now it
is full of the miserable outcroppings of the
South, who have ignobly fled from the rebel
conscription, but are ready, at any moment,
to defend the Confederacy in the billingsgate
and blasphemy of South Carolina. The Sal-
oons and bar-rooms, and even the lowest board-
ing house near the beach, are full of these run-
aways from the South; but they seem to be
believe that here they can, under the British flag,
establish the superiority for which they so long
vainly contended in the land of rice and cot-
ton.

The South seems to view in Nassau a con-
genial refuge, and her fugitives have come in
hundreds during the last week to this port.
Yesterday the rebel steamer Despatch, which
ran the blockade three times to my own knowl-
edge, sailed into the harbor in the morning
with the British flag flying at her peak. She
had on board the notorious Captain Coxeter.
After coming to the wharf he was surrounded
by a party of Southerners, who welcomed
him. His steamer was loaded with cotton,
which was shipped at Wilmington. The day
before the arrival of this steamer, four other
vessels sailed into the harbor and anchored
near the city. They had, as I am informed,
all cargoes of cotton.

From one of the officers of these vessels I
ascertained that the crews were not permitted
to go ashore, as several of them had deserted
at Havana. I was also informed by him
that Wilmington was full of Southerners, who
had sold all their property at a great sacrifice,
in order to leave the Confederacy by the
steamers which were regularly advertised to
leave that port for Nassau and Havana.

I can state from my personal observation,
that vessels are constantly arriving here,
ostensibly from New York with cargoes
which are immediately reshipped on notorious
blockade runners. How these vessels escaped
custom-house surveillance is a mystery which
the proper officers in your city alone can solve

Highly Important from Below.

We have received information from be-
low, of the most important character, but
which we deem prudent to withhold for the
present. Our informant is well posted, and
his statements to be relied on. We shall
probably hear to-day something of the success
of the enterprise. That it has proved a suc-
cess, we have scarcely a doubt. Eastern
North Carolina is to be redeemed from the
Yankee hordes that infest that section.

Some of our especial friends did not know
as much as we did on yesterday, when they
pronounced the little item of news from be-
low, given in *The Confederate* of that date,
as contraband. We were advised that the
object of the movement was already in pro-
cess of execution—that the first blow had
probably been struck,—and knew that the en-
emy would gain nothing from that little para-
graph that our Generals and brave soldiers had
not previously communicated to them. Our
especial friends need not fear our giving any
news to the enemy in advance of our army—
but the public may always look for the latest
and most reliable news in *The Confederate*.

One of the falsehoods which the late
northern papers received containing says the
Richmond Sentinel, is to the effect that great
numbers of Gen. Lee's army are deserting to
the Yankees! That Lincoln's proclamations
have been kept from the troops, for fear of the
effect they would have; and that the veterans
of the army of Northern Virginia are ready to
accept the terms offered by Lincoln. It is not
necessary to recall the fact that these "won-
derful" proclamations were published in the
Southern papers generally, and circulated
throughout the army, where they produced no
other feeling but contempt and hatred; and
that the men were never in better spirits, or
more determined to conquer Lincoln's vandals
than at the present time, as is evidenced by
the reenlistment of brigade after brigade in
the very army they declare demoralized.

Georgia.—A new and fatal disease has
made its appearance in, and around Rome.
We believe, says the *Courier*, the physicians
call it *Menigitis*, and says its pathology is
an inflammation of the base of the brain and
spinal nerves. The patient is attacked with
a chill, accompanied with a severe pain in the
head, particularly in the back part, and in
the spine. The head becomes drawn back,
and the patient experiences pains in the neck,
similar in kind to lockjaw, and generally be-
comes delirious in mind. The disease gener-
ally proves fatal in from twelve to thirty-
six hours. The disease is not considered con-
tagious, though it may possibly prove epide-
mic.

Some twenty persons have fallen victims to
the malady, in this vicinity, in the past three
weeks.

FROM JOHNSON'S ARMY.—Our accounts
from North Georgia are very cheering. Bri-
gade after brigade has unanimously re-sol-
ved to re-enlist for the war, and their proceedings
breathe the most unflinching patriotism. The
wounded at Chickamauga and Missionary
Ridge, absentees and stragglers, are returning
to their posts, and the army is reorganized to be
in a splendid condition and high spirits.

WHERE ARE THE PRINTERS?—We have
been advertising for printers for the past three
months, (says the Knoxville Register) and can
only get responses from those in the army.
Elsewhere there are none, and yet there is a
manifest disposition in Congress to re-issu-
e the clause of the Emancipation Act, which
relieves typographers from military duty. In the
battle of Chickamauga alone thirty of the
former press gang of the South were killed
and wounded.

SUICIDE OF A BOY.—A Southern exchange
says that a son of a Mrs. Forrester, about
thirteen years of age, residing in Chetawak
county, Miss., committed suicide one day last
week. It appears that this boy was exceed-
ingly anxious to go to the army and had become
a great annoyance to his mother about going,
which she was decidedly opposed to—the being
too young. So his mother whipped him, and
he then took down a double barrel shot gun,
cocked it, put the muzzle to his head, pulled
trigger with his big toe and shot his brains
out.

New Advertisements.

ENROLLING OFFICE,
5th Congressional District N. C.
Oxford, January 27, 1864.